

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of December 2, 2004, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-26 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 1, 2, 4, 14, and 23 stand rejected. Claims 3, 5-13, 15-22, and 24-26 recite allowable subject matter, but these claims have been objected to for depending from rejected base claims.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 14, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for reciting subject matter which is allegedly anticipated by the subject matter described in Japanese patent publication JP 01244631 of Nishiyama (hereinafter "Nishiyama").

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single reference which qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Inasmuch as it can be understood, the disclosure of Nishiyama is directed to a wafer inspection process that includes, among other things, marking each wafer to indicate the result of inspection. Nishiyama, Abstract. The wafer is marked by using a delivery roller to apply UV-curable resin thereto. *Id.* The entire wafer, including the UV-curable resin, is then exposed to ultraviolet radiation to cure all of the uncured resin present on the wafer. *Id.*

Independent claim 1 recites a method of labeling a semiconductor device component. As proposed to be amended, independent claim 1 recites "selectively consolidating" an unconsolidated material to form at least a portion of a mark.

The method of independent claim 14 also includes "selectively consolidating" material to form at least one mark on at least one substrate.

In contrast to "selectively consolidating" material to form a mark, as required by both amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 14, the description of Nishiyama is limited to selectively placing the UV-curable resin on the surface of a wafer, then nonselectively

exposing the uncured resin to UV radiation. Therefore, Nishiyama neither expressly nor inherently describes, or anticipates, “selectively consolidating” the UV-curable resin marking disclosed therein. As such, the subject matter recited in both amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 14 is allowable, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), over the subject matter described in Nishiyama.

Claims 23, 2, and 4 are both allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, which is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 3, 5-13, 15-22, and 24-26 recite allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. None of these claims has been amended to independent form, however, as the claims from which they depend are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein.

Entry of Amendments

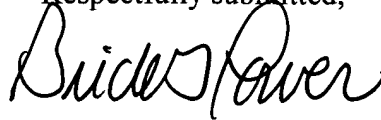
It is respectfully requested that the proposed claim amendments be entered. As the proposed amendment to independent claim 1 merely incorporates the “selectively consolidating” language that already appears in independent claim 14, entry of this revision does not introduce new matter into the above-referenced application and would not necessitate an additional search. Moreover, in view of the proposal to incorporate the “selectively consolidating” language of independent claim 14 into independent claim 1, entry of the proposed amendment to independent claim 1 would reduce the number of issues that remain for purposes of appeal.

In the event that a decision is made not to enter the proposed claim amendments, entry thereof upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-26 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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